

What is claimed is:

1. A dimer comprising a first neublastin polypeptide and a second neublastin polypeptide, wherein: (a) at least one of the polypeptides is glycosylated; (b) at least
5 one of the polypeptides is conjugated at its N-terminus to a water-soluble synthetic polymer; and (c) neither of the polypeptides is conjugated to a water-soluble synthetic polymer at a position other than the N-terminus.

2. The dimer according to claim 1, wherein the first neublastin polypeptide is
10 selected from the group consisting of NBN113 (SEQ ID NO:2), NBN140 (SEQ ID NO:6), NBN116 (SEQ ID NO:7), NBN112 (SEQ ID NO:8), NBN111 (SEQ ID NO:9), NBN110 (SEQ ID NO:10), NBN109 (SEQ ID NO:11), NBN108 (SEQ ID NO:12), NBN107 (SEQ ID NO:13), NBN106 (SEQ ID NO:14), NBN105 (SEQ ID NO:15), NBN104 (SEQ ID NO:16), NBN103 (SEQ ID NO:17), NBN102 (SEQ ID
15 NO:18), NBN101 (SEQ ID NO:19), NBN100 (SEQ ID NO:20) and NBN99 (SEQ ID NO:21).

3. The dimer according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of the first neublastin polypeptide and the second neublastin polypeptide are the same.
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4. The dimer of claim 1, wherein the water-soluble synthetic polymer is a polyalkylene glycol.

5. The dimer of claim 4, wherein the N-terminal amino acid of the first
25 neublastin polypeptide and the N-terminal amino acid of the second neublastin polypeptide each is conjugated to a polyalkylene glycol.

6. The dimer of claim 3, wherein the amino acid sequence of the first neublastin polypeptide is NBN104 (SEQ ID NO:16).

7. The dimer according to claim 1, wherein the average total molecular weight of the polyalkylene glycol moiety or moieties conjugated to the dimer is 10-50 kDa.

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8. The dimer of claim 7, wherein the average total molecular weight of the polyalkylene glycol moiety or moieties conjugated to the dimer is 15-45 kDa.

9. The dimer of claim 8, wherein the average total molecular weight of the polyalkylene glycol moiety or moieties conjugated to the dimer is 20-40 kDa.

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10. The dimer according to claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene glycol is linear.

11. The dimer according to claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene glycol is branched.

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12. The dimer of claim 1, wherein the polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

13. A composition comprising the dimer of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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14. A method of treating neuropathic pain in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the dimer of claim 1.

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15. A method of treating tactile allodynia in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the dimer of claim 1.

5 16. A method of treating thermal hyperalgesia, comprising administering to the mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the dimer of claim 1.

17. The method of claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the mammal is a human.

10 18. The method claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the therapeutically effective amount is from 0.1 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ to 1000 $\mu\text{g/kg}$.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the therapeutically effective amount is from 1 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ to 100 $\mu\text{g/kg}$.

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20. The method of claim 19, wherein the therapeutically effective amount is from 1 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ to 30 $\mu\text{g/kg}$.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the therapeutically effective amount is
20 from 3 $\mu\text{g/kg}$ to 10 $\mu\text{g/kg}$.

22. The method of claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the route of administration is intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous.

25 23. A method of activating the RET receptor in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of the dimer of claim 1.

24. A method of treating neuropathic pain, tactile allodynia or thermal hyperalgesia in a mammal, comprising co-administering to the mammal an effective amount of the dimer of claim 1 and an analgesic agent.